

RECEPTION OF GRAND MASTER AND OTHER DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

Introductions should be standard, but are not an exact Ritual. Lodges should comply with this form as closely as possible.

Introductions -- and Reception of Grand Master.

Any Bn (*Presiding Masters, Past Masters, Fifty-year Mason, Grand Officers of Concordant Orders, etc.*) the Master may wish to honor, are introduced first -- either on the sidelines, or at the Altar.

(Time can be saved by introducing these Bn on the sidelines.)

Basic Rules for Introductions:

1. When introducing "*first-time*" visitors -- use *CORRECT* name, the name and number of his Lodge and correct (state) jurisdiction.
2. G.L. officers (*including Past Elective Grand Lodge officers*) are introduced in groups (*by rank*). Any from other (state) jurisdictions are appropriately grouped (*according to rank*) along with our own G.L. officers.
3. Bn invited to the East (*after introduction*) are given Honors in East immediately after arrival there. If a Br is not being invited to the East, he is introduced at the Altar, given Honors there, and reseated among the Bn.
4. If a Br has more than one title, he is introduced in the group which accords him the highest Honors. (*Ex: a Past Grand Master who is also a Grand Lecturer, or a Grand Historian, would be introduced with the Past Grand Masters.*)
5. The Lodge is always "*called up*" for the introduction of G.L. officers. The three raps *** are given while the Sd is escorting a Br (or Bn) to the Altar.
6. As a Br is (or Bn are) being returned to side-lines (after introduction), the Master should seat the Lodge.
7. (*Time can be saved*) Between introductions, the Sd returns to his station only when it is convenient.

Sd makes introductions unless Master directs otherwise.

(The route of escort is on the square. As he approaches a Br to be escorted, Sd moves rod to left hand and places the Br on his right. When he has reseated a Br (or Bn) Sd returns rod to right hand.)

G.L. officers are received in the following order:

If there are any G.L. officers present from other (state) Jurisdictions, they must be included in the proper group -- and the Sd must use similar wording for their introduction - correct name, proper title, and (state) jurisdiction.

1. Dist. Dep. Grand Master(s) from other District(s) *(Hearty Welcome)*
W.M. directs: "Visiting District Deputy Grand Masters will please rise. " *If any rise* -- Master continues: "Brother Senior Deacon, you will escort (our Brother – or -- these Brethren) to the Altar for introduction."

After escort to Altar, Sd states:

"Worshipful Master -- I have the honor of introducing Brother(s) *(use full name, title and number of Dist.)*, A.F. & A.M. of Idaho."

W.M. extends a cordial welcome - then continues:

"Brethren, join me in according (our Brother - or these Brethren) a Hearty Welcome." W.M. then continues: "Brother Senior Deacon, you will reseate our visiting (Brother - or - Brethren)."

2. Dist. Dep. Grand Master of your own District. *(Public Grand Honors)*

(A Dist. Dep. is entitled to the courtesies due a representative of the G.M. However, he CANNOT open or close the Lodge except in accordance with Section 1702 of the Grand Lodge By-Laws. After the Lodge is open, he may preside therein on the invitation of the Master.)

W.M. directs. "The District Deputy Grand Master of the *(use number of own Dist.)* will please rise."

When Dist. Dep. rises - Master continues: "Brother Senior Deacon, you will escort our District Deputy Grand Master to the Altar for introduction."

Sd escorts Dist. Dep. to Altar - then states:

"Worshipful Master-I have the honor of introducing Brother *(use full name)*, District Deputy Grand Master of the *(use number of Dist.)* Masonic District, A.F. & A.M. of Idaho."

(If the Grand Master is present, the Senior Deacon should escort the District Deputy to the East but to the left of the Worshipful Master. The place on the right of the Master is thereby reserved for the Grand Master who will be introduced later.)

W.M. extends a cordial welcome then directs: "Brother Senior Deacon, you will escort (*use full name or title*) to the East (on my right-or-on my left)."

Sd escorts Dist. Dep. to East (north or south of Altar as directed) and remains in place near East during Honors. After Honors, when gavel is sounded to seat the Lodge, Sd returns to his station or remains in place to await further instructions.

W.M. receives Dist. Dep. with a hand clasp - then continues:

"Brethren, join me in according the Public Grand Honors." *If Dist. Dep. is not to be invited to East-Master welcomes him at the Altar, gives Public Grand Honors there - then continues:*

"Brother Senior Deacon, you will reseal our District Deputy Grand Master."

3. Appointive Grand Lodge Officer(s) (*Hearty Welcome*) W.M. directs: "All Appointive Grand Lodge officers will please rise." *If any rise-Master continues: "Brother Senior Deacon, you will escort (our Brother - or - these Brethren) to the Altar for introduction."*

Sd escorts the Br (or Bn) to the Alter - all sign - and the Sd continues:

"Worshipful Master - I have the honor of introducing (*use full name and title of each officer*) of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Idaho."

W.M. extends a cordial welcome -then continues:

"Brethren, join me in according our Appointive Grand Lodge Officer(s) a Hearty Welcome." After Hearty Welcome is completed - Master continues:

"Brother Senior Deacon, you will re-seat (our Brother - or - these Brethren)."

4. Most Worshipful Past Grand Master(s) (*Private Grand Honors*) W.M. directs: "All Past Grand Masters will please rise." *If any rise - Master continues: "Brother Senior Deacon, you will escort our Past Grand Master(s) to the Altar for introduction."*

Sd escorts Br (or Bn) to the Altar - all sign - and Sd continues: "Worshipful Master- I have the honor of introducing (*use full name of each*) Most Worshipful Past Grand Master(s) of Masons in Idaho."

(If any of the Past Grand Masters hold some other office - add) "and presently (use full & proper title) of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Idaho."

W.M. welcomes the Br (or Bn) - then continues:

"Brethren, join me in according the Private Grand Honors." When Honors are completed - Master continues: "Brother Senior Deacon, you will re-seat our Past Grand Master(s)."

5. R.W. Elective Grand Lodge Officer(s) (*Public Grand Honors*) W.M. directs: "All Elective (*and if any Past Elective Grand Lodge Officers are present - add "and past Elective"*) Grand Lodge Officers will please rise."

If any rise - Master continues: "Brother Senior Deacon, you will escort (our Brother-or-these Brethren) to the Altar for introduction."

Sd escorts Br (or Bn) to Altar-all sign-and Sd continues:

"Worshipful Master - I have the honor of introducing (*use full name & title of each officer*) of the Grand Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Idaho."

Master Welcomes Br (or Bn) then directs: " Brethren, join me in according our Elective Grand Lodge Officer(s) the Public Grand Honors."

When Honors are completed-Master continues - "Brother Senior Deacon, you will re-seat (our Brother – or - these Brethren)."

6. Visiting (*presiding*) Most Worshipful Grand Master(s) (*Private Grand Honors*)

Visiting Grand Master will retire with our own G.M. - or, they will remain outside the Lodge-room until time for their reception. They are received in the same manner as our own G.M ... and if there are several of them, they are received in one group, and after their introduction they are seated among the Bn.

7. Most Worshipful Grand Master (*Private Grand Honors.*)

To receive the Grand Master (*consult with him*), and unless he directs otherwise, the following procedure is in order:

(Seldom - usually does not apply) In case the Lodge is being opened, or is already at labor, and the Grand Master arrives late, *or without any previous notice*, the Tyler gives alarm at door. Jd answers alarm (*without any instructions from the Master*) Tyler informs Jd "The Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Idaho is present and desires admission."

After receiving message, Jd closes door, (*and at opportune time*) signs, and reports:

"Worshipful Master - The Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Idaho is present, and desires admission."

(This is an unusual circumstance, but the Master directs an escort to retire and escort the M. W. Grand Master to the Altar for introduction.)

(Normal Sequence) The presence of the Grand Master is already known. *(Do NOT direct the Jd to ascertain whether or not the G.M. is present.)*

If the Grand Master remains outside the Lodge-room during the opening, he is entertained by some member(s) until time for his reception.

Usually the G.M. enters the Lodge-room to observe the opening - and having done so, he will *(at a convenient time during the other introductions)* approach the Altar, sign, and retire to await his escort and reception.

As G.M. retires - Jd opens door for him to depart.

When receiving the Grand Master, the master selects a distinguished Mason of his own choice *(usually the Dist. Dep.)* to serve as escort - and directs:

"Brother *(use name or title)*, *(designated escort rises)* you will retire with the Marshal *(Mar. rises)*, and the Senior Deacon *(Sd rises)*, and escort the Most Worshipful Grand Master to the Altar for introduction."

These three approach the Altar, sign, and retire *(proceeding abreast)*.

Jd opens door for them to depart, closes door after their departure, and returns to his station.

When G.M. is ready to enter, Tyler gives alarm at door. Jd answers alarm *(without any instruction from Master)* and Tyler reports to Jd:

"Brother Junior Deacon, the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Idaho desires admission."

Jd closes door, signs, and reports: "Worshipful Master - the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Idaho desires admission."

W.M. responds: "Admit him."

Jd opens door, *and Master calls Lodge up (three raps ***)* Escort has G.M. on his right, and Sd follows with Marshal on his right. These four enter Lodge-room and advance on square to Altar. *(When they have cleared the doorway, the Jd closes door and returns to his station.)*

At the Altar these four form a line facing East *(their order from north to south being the Sd, escort, Grand Master, and Marshal)*. They all sign together, Sd & Marshal take one step back, and the escort makes the introduction:

"Worshipful Master - I have the honor of introducing Brother *(use full name)*, The Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Idaho."

(When escort completes the introduction, he takes one step back.)

W.M. extends a cordial welcome-then continues:

"Brother *(use full name or title of escort)*, you will escort our Most Worshipful Grand Master to the East."

Escort takes G.M. north of Altar to East, and Sd & Marshal remain in place.
(Escort then remains in place near East until gavel is sounded to seat the Lodge.)

W.M. receives G.M. with a handclasp, and with the G.M. on his right *(both facing West)* - the Master continues:

"Brethren, join me in according the Private Grand Honors."

Following Honors, the Master presents gavel - *he may use his own words - or, recite the following:*

"Most Worshipful Grand Master, I have the honor of presenting to you this gavel. We shall be pleased to have you preside over the deliberations of this Lodge. Your skill in drawing designs upon the Masonic Trestle Board is well known, and no doubt we shall receive both pleasure and profit from your instructions."

The G.M. may keep the gavel, preside, and return it at his pleasure - but he will probably express his gratitude for this honor, seat the Bn, and return the gavel to the Master.

(In event the G.M. merely returns the gavel, the Master should seat the Lodge.)

As the Lodge is seated *(either by the G.M. or the Master)* the escort returns to his seat. *If the escort is the Dist. Dep. he proceeds west, turns S on a line immediately W of A, and after passing A he turns East and advances to seat left of Master. When Dist. Dep. turns E, the Sd (north of A) and Marshal (south of A) advance with him as they proceed to their stations.*

In case the escort is not the Dist. Dep. and he takes a seat somewhere on the north or south of the Lodge Room, the Sd (north of A) and Marshal (south of A) advance together as they proceed to their stations.

When the business of the Communication is completed, the Master should again offer the gavel to the G.M. and request him to close the Lodge.